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Congress approved a new \$286.4 billion federal transportation package last week that includes money for western access from the Tri-State Tollway to O'Hare International Airport and the widening and reconstruction of the Route 60 bridge over Interstate 94 in Lake Forest.

The project that will widen and reconstruct the Route 60 bridge over I-94 is getting \$9 million.

U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk, R-10th, helped secure funding for the reconstruction and widening of the Route 60 bridge over Interstate 94. The project is scheduled to begin in 2007.

Kirk said he heard a lot from constituents who commute on that route. Employers located in Lake Forest, Vernon Hills and Libertyville have complained about how the bridge in its current state affects their employees, who regularly sit in traffic on the bridge.

"Anybody commuting in that area will tell you that if you get caught in that after 3:30 p.m. you might as well get a hotel room," Kirk said.